

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KEITH BALES**, on January 13, 2003 at 3 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Bales, Chairman (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jennifer Stephens, Committee Secretary
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 87, 12/17/2002
Executive Action: SB 87

HEARING ON SB 87

Sponsor: SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN, SD 46, HARLEM

Proponents: Will Kissinger, MT Department of Agriculture
John Youngberg, MT Farm Bureau
Barbara Broberg, WIFE
Bob Stephens, MT Grain Growers Association

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN, SD 46, HARLEM, submitted written testimony, **EXHIBIT**(ags06a01).

Proponents' Testimony:

Will Kissinger, MT Department of Agriculture, explained that in 1949, there was legislation issued that instated a tax of \$.05 per dollar on rodenticides sold in the state. In 1993, legislation was passed that did away with that tax, so since that time, there has been no money for the Department of Agriculture to be able to give grants. He explained that the legislative auditors, in their annual review, identified that the language was still in the statute allowing the department to give grants. The auditors asked if the department could initiate legislation to do away with the grant because there was no longer any authority or revenue for them to make such grants. He ended by asserting his support for SB 87.

John Youngberg, MT Farm Bureau, announced that he and the MT Farm Bureau support SB 87.

Barbara Broberg, WIFE, announced that she and the organization she represents support SB 87.

Bob Stephens, MT Grain Growers Association, also supports SB 87.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. NELSON asked what vertebrate pests were. **Mr. Kissinger** said skunks, gophers, mice, etc., would be considered vertebrate pests.

SEN. MAHLUM asked how to get rid of gophers. **Mr. Kissinger** explained that the department has two specialists that can give advise on how to get rid of gophers.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN closed on SB 87.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 87

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that **SB 87 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:30 P.M.

SEN. KEITH BALES, Chairman

JENNIFER STEPHENS, Secretary

KB/JS

EXHIBIT (ags06aad)